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S. W. A.

CITY OF BOSTON BILLS OF MORTALITY, 1810-49.

Bills of Mortality, 1810-49. City of Boston. With an Essay on the Vital Statistics of Boston from 1810 to 1841. By Lemuel Shattuck. Boston. Reprinted for the Registry Department. 1893.

The great rarity of American vital statistics for the first half of the present century makes this volume an exceedingly interesting one to the statistician. Mr. Whitmore, the City Registrar of Boston, has accomplished a useful service in republishing the paper of Mr. Shattuck, which, like the later Report of the Sanitary Commission of 1850 (also the work of Mr. Shattuck), is a document of much value.

The following estimates of the population are also presented for decades in the 18th century: —

	1725-34.	1735-44.	1745-54.	1755-64.	1765-74.
Average Population, White....	11,900	14,750	14,190	14,390	14,672
“ “ Black	1,100	1,250	1,541	1,241	848
Total.....	13,000	16,000	15,731	15,631	15,520
Average annual mortality.....	502	570	671	514	521
Death rate per 1,000.....	38.6	35.6	42.6	32.8	33.5

Statistics of small-pox show that in 1721 more than half the population of Boston were sick with this loathsome disease, and 844, or 7.7 per cent of the population, died of the same disease. Tables are presented giving the distribution of the population by age, sex, and color at different periods from 1765 to 1830, also the increase of

population, the deaths at different ages, the mortality of different sexes, and seasons of the year.

The classification of diseases is mainly in three groups:—

1. Endemic, epidemic, and contagious.
2. Sporadic.
3. Deaths by violence.

The earlier statistics of all countries are impaired by the large number of deaths by unknown causes, and those of uncertain seat. The ratio of these, however, appears to have largely diminished from 1810 to 1840. The death returns from 1810 to 1850 occupy 81 pages, and present the deaths by months, age periods, sex, and causes of death. It is interesting to note that some of the common causes of death, such as Bright's disease and diphtheria do not appear at all in these lists, a fact which is not to be explained by any theory that they did not then exist. The explanation lies partly in a change of nomenclature, and also very largely in the progress of medical science, which has enabled the medical profession in later years to determine the character of diseases with much greater certainty. For example, in 1818, out of a total of 971 deaths, 260, or nearly 27 per cent, were recorded as having died from unknown causes and from dropsy, and there were none from kidney diseases, while in 1890 the deaths from unknown causes were only 1.2 per cent, and those from kidney diseases constituted 3 per cent of the total mortality.

S. W. A.

GEOGRAPHIC STATISTIC TABLES OF THE WORLD.

Otto Hübner's Geographisch-statistische Tabellen aller Länder der Erde. 42. Ausgabe für das Jahr 1893. Herausgegeben von Univ. Prof. Dr. Fr. v. Juraschek. Heinrich Keller. Frankfurt a. M.

This excellent statistical summary is published in the form of a large sheet, which may be mounted and hung upon a wall; and also as a pamphlet of 91 pages, the latter containing a few additional condensed tables.

The following topics are statistically presented in separate columns:

- Name of country and form of government.
- Name of ruler and year of birth.
- Area of country in square kilometers.